The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988 recently passed by Parliament, inter alia, provides for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs and also forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug-related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Opening of branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh

1688. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration for opening of more branches of Syndicate Bank in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for rural and semi-urban centres and proposals submitted by banks for urban and metropolitan areas, RBI has allotted 19 rural centres and 2 metropolitan centres to Syndicate Bank for opening branches in Andhra Pradesh as per details given below:--

Name of district	No. of centres allotted
Ananthapur . .	2 (Rural)
Cuddapah . .	3 ,,
Kurnool . .	4 ,,
Nalgonda . .	2 ,,
Nellore . .	2 ,,
Prakasam . .	6 ,,
Hyderabad . .	2 (Metropolitan)
TOTAL : .	21

Foreign exchange losses due to export of certain drugs

1689. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing foreign exchange in export of certain drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cephalexin, Ethambutol, Mabendazol, Rifampicin, Dexycylin and Erythrromycin were exported in the past;

(d) if so, what are the names of the companies which had exported these drugs along with the names of the countries where the above drugs exported.

(e) what was the quantity exported and what was the price at which exported; and

(f) what were the assistance and benefits given on each of export of these drugs and what were the basis and policy kept in consideration in each case?